

Students Served by LUCHA™

Enrollment, Graduation Rates, and Leave Reasons for Students Served 2011–2012 Through 2015–2016

Chelsea Cornelius, Ph.D.

Publication 16.20
March 2017

In an effort to help Mexican immigrant students earn high school credit for courses taken in Mexico, Austin Independent School District (AISD) partners with the Language Learners at the University of Texas at Austin's Center for Hispanic Achievement (LUCHA) program. This brief report summarizes the graduation rates and leave reasons of AISD students served by LUCHA between the school years of 2011–2012 and 2015–2016.

Each fall, AISD receives data from the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) regarding which students from the previous school year left the district and why. These PEIMS data and local demographic records were used to examine the percentage of students served by LUCHA who are currently enrolled in AISD, have graduated, or have otherwise left the district (Table 1).

One notable data point is the number of students served by the program; nearly three times as many students were served in the two most recent school years compared with in 2011–2012 and 2012–2013. Of the students served in 2011–2012, more than 50% graduated from AISD. That percentage decreased to 37% for students served the following year. Graduation rates for students served between 2013–2014 and 2015–2016 are incomplete because some students served during this time frame are still eligible for enrollment at AISD. Thus, future analyses of the graduation rates for students served in recent years will allow for more meaningful comparisons of graduation rates across time.

Table 1.
Leave Reasons and Current Enrollment for Students Served 2011–2012 Through 2015–2016

	2011–12 (n = 33)	2012–13 (n = 30)	2013–14 (n = 74)	2014–15 (n = 96)	2015–16 (n = 94)
Graduated	52%	37%	26%	6%	0%
Earned GED	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
Dropped out	9%	7%	4%	6%	2%
Returned to home country	9%	23%	28%	32%	26%
Enrolled in home school	0%	3%	1%	1%	0%
Enrolled in private school in TX	9%	10%	10%	3%	1%
Enrolled in charter school in TX	3%	0%	5%	4%	3%
Enrolled in another district in TX	15%	10%	7%	9%	4%
Enrolled in school outside of TX	3%	7%	3%	3%	3%
Currently enrolled in AISD	0%	0%	16%	32%	60%

Source. PEIMS 203 records and local student demographic records from 2011 to 2017

Note. Percentages in a column may not total 100 due to rounding. Three students had missing leaver data.

What is LUCHA?

The Language Learners at the University of Texas at Austin's Center for Hispanic Achievement (LUCHA) program helps secondary students transfer high school credits they earned in Mexico to their high school in Texas. LUCHA services include transcript obtainment from Mexico and analysis of the alignment of credits earned in Mexico to Texas standards. Online courses in Spanish are also provided. Transcript obtainment and course credit analysis cost \$450 per student. Examples of sources of funding that districts may use for these services include Title I Part A funds, Title III Part A funds, state compensatory education funds, and high school allotment funds for course credit recovery.

For more information about LUCHA, visit <https://highschool.utexas.edu/lucha-program>